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The concluding chapter of the book is devoted to the Ideals of the Profession. In the opinion of the author the lawyer cannot fail to recognize the ideals which he ought to pursue in justice to his profession. "His whole work in life is devoted to the definition and establishment of public order under law. No one ought to seek to share in that work, who does not feel its essential nobility, and who is not ready to adorn and defend it with the best that in him lies. His practice may be small; his efforts poor. All the more should he struggle to do his part in making justice in common things known and constant."

Judge Baldwin says:

"The one, unvarying ideal of the legal profession is to advance and perfect the law which it is created to call into action. It is always in danger of pushing this purpose of improvement too far. It is always in greater danger of not carrying it far enough.

"Lovers of Goethe will recall the brilliant scene in Faust's study, when Mephistopheles dons a Professor's cap and gown, and grants an interview to a student who wishes advice as to whether he study law for his profession. 'My dear boy,' he replies, 'keep clear of that. Law and notions of right are inherited like an eternal disease: they slide themselves along from generation to generation, and spread imperceptibly from place to place. Reason becomes nonsense, and the best actions are called wrong. Wo to thee that thou art somebody's grandson! Of the legal notions that we are born with there is unfortunately never any question made.'

"If we strip this charge of its poetic intensity, it is true. The lawyer, and particularly the American lawyer, is naturally a conservative force in human society. He professes a science which some of his predecessors at the bar have praised as the perfection of reason. He must steadily aim to guard himself against sharing that opinion. He must be ready to confess that there are faults in American law and judicial procedure which can be safely eliminated, and to do one's man's part, at least, towards getting rid of them."

While the title of the book indicates that it was written primarily for young men and intended to aid them in determining whether to enter the profession of the law, no one can read it without advantage and pleasure. Indeed no lawyer, whatever his age and his experience, can read the book without profit and satisfaction. The writer of it is a scholar in the law, who has attained to eminence in his profession and whose reputation is not restricted to the confines of the United States. Out of the storehouse of his knowledge and his rich experience he has given us another book which was needed, and one which everyone interested in the law should read.

HENRY WADE ROGERS

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*Commentaries on Equity Jurisprudence.* By Joseph Story. Third English Edition. By A. E. Randall. London, Sweet & Maxwell, 1920. pp. xxxvii, 673.

In the forty-six years that elapsed between the dates of the first appearance, in 1835, of Story's *Equity Jurisprudence* and that of the publication of Pomeroy's *Equity Jurisprudence*, in 1881, Story's two volumes ran through no less than twelve editions. The thirteenth edition, edited by Professor Melville M. Bigelow, appeared in 1886, and the fourteenth, in three volumes, thirty-two years later, in 1918. The second edition of Story was published in England (as the First English Edition) in 1839, the same year in which it appeared in America. A second English edition appeared in 1892, and now comes the third English edition, prepared by the editor of the *Law Quarterly Review*. It was long ago pointed out that two of the most popular handbooks on Equity, Snell's *Principles of Equity* and Smith's *Manual of Equity Jurisprudence*, are based largely upon Story's text. (7 AM. L. REV. 141.) Thus this product of Judge Story's lectures in the Harvard Law School holds the endurance record for popularity on both sides of the Atlantic, among American law books. Indeed, if we except Blackstone, Story has also out-distanced all, or nearly all, English competitors.

To us in America who must now read our Story in three stout volumes, comprising more than two thousand pages, with the original text over-laid with notes by successive editors, and containing some seventeen thousand citations of cases, it comes as a welcome surprise to find Story's text compressed into a single volume of seven hundred pages. For an American editor, in this land of the free and home of the brave, to undertake to omit or amend any portion of the original text, however hoary and antiquated, of such a classic as Story, is deemed a literary (or is it a "jural"?) crime of the highest order. Perhaps we are right in feeling that, generally speaking, there is danger, and possibly disaster, ahead when some daring individual starts to "monkey with" the text of a standard law book. Yet, when this work is done by such an accomplished hand as that of the editor of the present English edition, no one need fear for the result.

It is obvious that even such a slow-moving portion of our legal system as Equity must have changed and developed greatly since Justice Story wrote, three generations ago. Indeed, the wonder is that so large a part of Story remains as true to-day as when it was written. In accordance with the English practice, the editor has omitted much obsolete matter and many extended discussions which were moot questions in Story's day but which have long since been clearly settled by authority; he has, whenever necessary, re-written so much of the text as is requisite to conform to changes in the rules of Equity, and has added new paragraphs to show later developments. Furthermore, no attempt is made to cite all the cases in point, even the English ones, and all the citations to American authorities are omitted. This gives us a clean page to read and avoids the necessity of elaborate footnotes, contradicting or adding to antiquated statements found in the original text. And since the present edition is primarily for the use of students who seek to know the law as it is, the editor is clearly justified in gaining clearness and saving space by this method.

This new edition should prove highly valuable to the English law student, and as a clear and accurate, though as to some matters a rather brief, statement of the English equity system as it appears to-day, the volume should everywhere receive a welcome.

E. S. T.

### BOOKS RECEIVED

- Comparative Administrative Law.* By Nagandranath Ghose. Calcutta, Butterworth & Co., 1919. pp. xlv, 704.
- The Law of Damages and Compensation.* By F. O. Arnold. Second Edition. London, Butterworth & Co., 1919. pp. lxxxvi, 408.
- The Equality of States in International Law.* By Edwin D. Dickinson. Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 1920. pp. xiii, 424.
- The United States of America: A study in International Organization.* By James Brown Scott. New York, Oxford University Press, 1920. pp. xix, 605.
- A Digest of the Law of Partnership.* By Sir Frederick Pollock. Eleventh Edition. London, Stevens & Sons, Ltd., 1920. pp. xxiv, 267.
- Hints on Advocacy.* By Richard Harris. Fifteenth Edition. By J. H. Watts. London, Stevens & Sons, Ltd., 1920. pp. xxi, 348.
- The Law of Torts.* By Sir Frederick Pollock. Eleventh Edition. London, Stevens & Sons, Ltd., 1920. pp. xlvi, 715.
- Maritime Law.* By Albert Saunders. Second Edition. London, Effingham Wilson, 1920. pp. xxxii, 501. [American agents: N. A. Phemister Co., 42 Broadway, New York, N. Y.]
- A Treatise on the Law of Evidence.* By Pitt Taylor. Eleventh Edition. By J. B. Matthews and G. F. Spear. London, Sweet & Maxwell, Ltd., 1920. In Two Volumes. Vol. I, pp. cii, 665. Vol. II, pp. 667-1468.